

Message Text

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ACTION EA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 PA-01 INR-01 /005 W

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O R 181200Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO USINFO WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6569

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

SECDEF WASHDC

UNCLAS PHNOM PENH 8293

USINFO ALSO FOR VOA NEWSROOM

USINFO ALSO FOR IOP/FW

USINFO ALSO FOR IEA

BANGKOK FOR HEDGES

BANGKOK, HONG KONG AND SAIGON FOR VOA CORRESPONDENTS

STATE S/PRS AND EA/P

SECDEF FOR OASD/PA

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: KHMER SITUATIONER

1. IN AN ADDRESS TUESDAY TO THE KHMER PARLIAMENT

OUTLINING THE PROGRAM OF HIS NEW GOVERNMENT, PRIME MINISTER

LONG BORET STRESSED THE FOLLOWING SIX POINTS: 1) A STRONG

ARMY, 2) STRONG CITIZENS AND INSTITUTIONS, 3) AVOIDING

INTERNAL QUARRELS AND MAINTAINING A FIRM INTERNAL FRONT

TOWARD ADVERSITY, 4) MOBILISING ALL MEANS TO INCREASE

DOMESTIC PRODUCTION, 5) OBTAINING INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

FOR THE NATIONAL STRUGGLE AND 6) OPENING DIALOGUES

TO BRING ABOUT NATIONAL RECONCILIATION. DECLARING

THE STATE IN DANGER, HE APPEALED FOR NATIONAL UNITY

INCLUDING CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN MILITARY AND

CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES TO ENSURE CAMBODIA'S SECURITY.

HE PROMISED THE GOVERNMENT'S BEST EFFORTS TO SOLVE

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ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL PROBLEMS. REAFFIRMING THE

ADMINISTRATION'S DESIRE TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS TO FIND A FORMULA FOR NATIONAL UNITY AND RECONCILIATION, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD SUPPORT ALL INITIATIVES OR IDEAS DIRECTED TOWARD THIS END. AND ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE, HE STRESSED THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO FIGHT FOR THE KHMER REPUBLIC'S RIGHTS AT THE UNITED NATIONS. SPEAKING OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE OTHER SIDE, PRIME MINISTER BORET SAID QUOTE THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT HOLDS TO ITS JUST POSITION, THAT OF A PEACEFUL DIALOGUE TO SEEK A FORMULA LEADING TO UNION AND RECONCILIATION AMONG ALL KHMERS, AND REFUSES ALL FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IN THE SOLUTION OF THE KHMER PROBLEM UNQUOTE.

2. THE FANK MILITARY SPOKESMAN REPORTED TUESDAY THAT 314 COMMUNIST SOLDIERS DIED MONDAY IN THE GOVERNMENT BREAK-THROUGH ON ROUTE 5 SOUTH OF LOVEK. IN ADDITION, 21 COMMUNISTS WERE CAPTURED AND 79 ENEMY WEAPONS SEIZED. FANK LOST 21 DEAD AND 45 WOUNDED. GOVERNMENT TROOPS ARE NOW REPORTED ONLY 4 1/2 KILOMETERS FROM THE FORMER FANK BEACHHEAD POSITION AT KOMPONG LUONG ON THE TONLE SAP RIVER. THREE KILOMETERS TO THE NORTH, AN ADDITIONAL 1,200 LOVEK REFUGEES BOARDED NAVY CRAFT AT THE RECENTLY-ESTABLISHED BEACHHEAD POSITION FOR THE TRIP TO KOMPONG CHHNANG. THEY TOOK WITH THEM HUNDREDS OF CATTLE AND OX-CARTS.

3. TWO CHINESE-MADE 107MM ROCKETS HIT IN A RESIDENTIAL AREA OF SOUTHERN PHNOM PENH MONDAY NIGHT KILLING THREE PEOPLE AND WOUNDING 14 OTHERS, ALL CIVILIANS. IT WAS THE FIRST ROCKET ATTACK UPON THE CAPITAL IN MORE THAN A WEEK.

4. COMMUNIST PRESSURE AGAINST THE ISOLATED GARRISON OF KOMPONG SEILA ON LOWER ROUTE 4 PICKED UP IN THE LAST 24 HOURS. GROUND ASSAULTS AND ATTACKS BY FIRE WERE REPORTED ALL AROUND THE BASE'S PERIMETER. GOVERNMENT CASUALTIES WERE DESCRIBED AS LIGHT TO MODERATE. NO GROUND, HOWEVER, WAS LOST TO THE ENEMY. NEARBY DAS KANCHOR REPORTED SCATTERED ATTACKS BY FIRE CAUSING NO CASUALTIES.

5. THE COMMUNIST-INTERDICITED PORTION OF ROUTE 5
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NORTHWEST OF PURSAT WAS REDUCED MONDAY FROM 18 TO 16 KILOMETERS. GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS ARE UNDER WAY AT BOTH ENDS OF THE INTERDICITED STRETCH TO CLEAR OUT THE COMMUNIST FORCES. ALTHOUGH THE COMMUNISTS HAVE HALTED TRAFFIC ON THE ROAD, NO GOVERNMENT POSITIONS ON THE HIGHWAY HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY THE ENEMY.

6. A RASH OF COMMUNIST ATTACKS BY FIRE AT PREY VENG

INCLUDING ONE GROUND PROBE KILLED THREE GOVERNMENT
SOLDIERS AND WOUNDED THREE OTHERS. FIVE COMMUNISTS
DIED AS GOVERNMENT DEFENDERS REPULSED THE GROUND ATTACK.
A SHARP INCREASE IN COMMUNIST PRESSURE WAS NOTED MONDAY
AT PREK TAMERK WITH GOVERNMENT FORCES TAKING MODRATE
CASUALTIES FROM SHELLINGS AND GROUND ASSAULTS. KHMER
NAVAL CRAFT HAVE BEEN DISPATCHED TO THE SCENE TO SUPPORT
THE GOVERNMENT DEFENDERS. MILITARY ACTIVITY WAS ALSO
REPORTED AT KOMPONG CHAM, TAKEO, KAMPOT AND AT O SANDAN
ON ROUTE 5 SOUTH OF KOMPONG CHHNANG.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL MILITARY RELATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, COMBAT OPERATIONS, CASUALTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PHNOM08293
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740158-0590
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740635/aaaabegz.tel
Line Count: 125
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 NOV 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 NOV 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <04-Nov-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KHMER SITUATIONER
TAGS: PFOR, CB, (LONG BORET)
To: n/a
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005